

## **Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 30**

### **RESOLUTION CHAPTER 54**

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 30—Relative to the civic mission of schools.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 22, 2005.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST --- ACR 30, McCarthy. Civic mission of schools. This measure would urge the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles of democracy in the schools of this state.

**WHEREAS**, Preparing each generation to understand and support democratic principles is the responsibility of all of our institutions and was a primary reason for the creation of public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Our citizens have overwhelmingly agreed over the course of 33 years of Gallup polling that "educating young people for responsible citizenship" should be the primary purpose of our schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Research demonstrates that our schools are an effective place to provide systematic and sustained instruction in and opportunities for the application of democratic principles and that early adolescence is a particularly critical time for civic education; and

**WHEREAS**, The democratic principles that underlie our society, the structure, and functions of government, and the rights, responsibilities, and participation of citizens should be a continual and meaningful part of instruction throughout every child's education; and

**WHEREAS**, The importance of pupils' grasp of the concepts of civic responsibility and respect for others cannot be underestimated; and

**WHEREAS**, The history-social science framework goals now guiding California schools call for the integration of knowledge and cultural understanding, democratic understanding, civic values and skills attainment, and social participation at every grade; and

**WHEREAS**, State law requires that secondary pupils complete only a single semester-long course in government/civics; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring**, That the Legislature urges the State Board of Education and all local school governing bodies to examine current practice and develop plans to increase and broaden emphasis on principles and practices of democracy in the schools of this state; and be it further

**Resolved**, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the State Board of Education and to the author for distribution.